

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (currently amended) A laser source comprising:

a laser medium having a back facet and a front surface, wherein said laser medium emits a laser beam through said front surface into an external cavity; a cavity end mirror that defines a length of said external cavity and reflects said laser beam back towards said laser medium, wherein said cavity end mirror is curved;

a wavelength tunable filter arranged between said laser medium and said cavity end mirror and being tunable to a wavelength of said laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said external cavity;

a focussing optics that focuses said laser beam on said cavity end mirror, wherein said laser medium, said wavelength tunable filter, ~~said beam splitter~~, said focussing optics and said cavity end mirror are arranged in a spatially linear cavity structure substantially in a line without angular redirection of said laser beam in said external cavity.

2. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 1, further comprising a beam splitter between said wavelength tunable filter and said laser medium that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

3. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 1, wherein said back facet of said laser medium is partly transparent and couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

4. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 1, wherein at least one of said laser medium or said cavity end mirror is movable in a linear direction of said spatially linear cavity structure to adjust an optical path length of said external cavity commensurate with a tuning of said wavelength by said wavelength tunable filter.

5. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 4, further comprising a synchronizing unit that synchronizes said optical path length with said tuning of said wavelength by said wavelength tunable filter so that said laser beam is substantially mode hop free during said tuning.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 1, wherein said cavity end mirror is partly transparent that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

8. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 1, further comprising a beam splitter between said wavelength tunable filter and said cavity end mirror that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A laser source comprising:
a laser medium that emits a laser beam into a cavity;
a curved mirror, at an end of said cavity, that reflects said laser beam back towards said laser medium;
a lens that focuses said laser beam onto said curved mirror; and
a filter, between said laser medium and said curved mirror, being tunable to a wavelength of said laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said cavity, wherein said filter, said lens and said curved mirror are linearly situated in a path of said laser beam.

14. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said curved mirror is partly transparent and couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

15. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said laser medium has a partly transparent back facet that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

16. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between said filter and said laser medium, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

17. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between said filter and said curved mirror, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

18. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 13, wherein at least one of said laser medium or said curved mirror is movable to adjust a length of said path commensurate with a tuning of said filter.

19. (previously presented) The laser source of claim 18, further comprising a device that synchronizes an adjustment of said length with said tuning of said filter.